

The Topeka State Journal.

TEN CENTS A WEEK.

LAST EDITION.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 19, 1894.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR.

FRIDAY'S CREW.

A Batch of Murderers Suspended Today.

North Dakota, Illinois and Missouri the Places.

SEXTUPLE MURDER

Was the Crime Charged Against Bomberger.

Wils Howard Makes Vain Attempt to Suicide.

ST. PAUL, MINN., Jan. 18.—A Compt. N. D., special to the Dispatch says: At sunrise this morning the crowds began to gather to witness the hanging of Bomberger, the murderer—the sextuple murderer—was hanged on the hills around the enclosure in which the execution was to take place. This is located in a valley one mile south of the town and a good view can be had from the surrounding hills, where over 2,000 people stood all morning awaiting the end.

Bomberger spent the night playing seven-up with his guards. He was a trifle excited but otherwise showed no feeling whatever. Yesterday he talked with a clergyman, but refused to see him again this morning.

At 2:30 o'clock the sheriff started with him for the place of execution, accompanied by deputies and witnesses. The scaffold faced so that as the murderer took his last view of earth before his execution, his gaze rested on the place where his crimes were committed.

He was hanged at 3:30 this afternoon. He calmly bid his friends good-bye, assuring them he would not be hanged. He again refused to hear the clergyman and said, "I have but a few words to say. I am sorry for my crime and hope no one will follow in my footsteps." The drop fell and his crime against the law had been punished.

None of his relatives being here to take charge of his body, it will be buried in the poorer soil.

Story of Albert Bomberger's Crime.

The crime for which Bomberger today gave up his life was one of the most brutal in the memory of Justice. It involved his uncle, David J. S. Kreuter, his aunt and four young cousins, because of some word which he had used in regard to his cousin, Annie Kreuter.

The Kreuter family came from Lancaster, Pa., and three of their relatives still live and settled on a farm two miles from their place. Bomberger had been employed as general utility man about the farm for six months previous to the tragedy. He had made advances to his cousin, Annie Kreuter, but had been repulsed, and on the evening before the murder, she had threatened to tell her father of his actions.

This threat was carried out and at daylight Bomberger went to his uncle's room and shot him with a shotgun as he lay asleep. He then went to the kitchen where his aunt was preparing breakfast and shot her. Annie was locked in his own room, and he next killed Bernice, aged 14, Merle, aged 11, Mary, aged 9 and David, aged 7. The youngest girl, Anna, was also cut to make sure of death.

He spared the three younger boys, in answer to the supplications of Annie, the oldest child. Next he compelled the girl to prepare his breakfast while the mutilated body of her mother lay on the floor at her feet. Carefully and deliberately he ate his breakfast, drove the girl to his room and afterwards to the barn, assaulting her criminally several times. After trying her best and locking her in the barn, he saddled a horse and made for the Manitoba border.

The little ones left alive soon released their mother and she gave the alarm. Bomberger managed to make his way unchained to Dolores, Man., where he was captured late Saturday night, only forty hours after the murder. Only by the vigilance of Sheriff McCone was he saved from the pursuing lynching party, which nearly captured him on three occasions. For safe keeping the murderer was taken to the Grand Forks jail, where he made a full confession of the crime.

When brought up for trial he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to hang. Since he had been maimed he was allowed, and at times, permission to play cards, but as far as possible to escape the penalty of his crime, except that he incurred twice as much himself, as believing that he might have escaped with his life if he had insisted on trial. The crime was of so diabolical a nature that no effort in the direction of executive clemency was attempted.

WILS HOWARD HANGED.

He Dies Without Confessing at Lebanon, Mo., This Morning.

LEBANON, Mo., Jan. 19.—Wils Howard was hanged here today at 9:15 for the murder of a deaf mute in Marion County, Missouri, in 1888. He died without confessing.

After Howard had been brought here from St. Louis, where he was taken for safe keeping, he consented to talk, and confessed to having killed six men in Kentucky, in the Martin-Howard-Turner feud. His uncle and brother were convicted of the murder of two of the men, who are now serving terms in the penitentiary.

Howard spent a very restless night, frequently weeping and tormenting his face. His spiritual welfare was looked after by several local clergymen, and before retiring he professed to have made his peace with his Maker.

At 9:30 Howard was taken to the scaffold. Prayer was offered for the condemned man; he was baptized and the black cap was adjusted. The drop fell at 9:30. Howard's neck was not broken by the fall, and he died from slow strangulation. The noose slipped over the ear, and after hanging seven and a half minutes his pulse was beating at the rate of 120 a minute. Two minutes after the trap fell Howard tried to speak, but his lips uttered only an indistinguishable sound.

His body was cut down in twenty minutes. The remains were taken in charge by an undertaker preparatory to being shipped to his relatives in Kentucky, who wired Sheriff Jones to take care of the body.

Howard's Attempted Suicide.

1:45 p.m.—It has just been ascertained that Wils Howard attempted to commit suicide this morning while in his cell. The attempt was unsuccessful, being frustrated by his guard. When he made the attempt or how it is not known.

Story of Wils Howard's Crime.

The crime which brought him to the gallows was the murder of a dead man, named Thomas McMichael in Marion county in 1888.

The murdered man was stopping with a deaf mute friend in a remote part of the country, when Howard appeared at the house. He represented himself as a detective and pretended that he wanted McMichael for robbery.

He took the mutt into the woods a short distance from the house, shot him and robbed him of about \$50 and disappeared. Two days after the body was found, and on the ground near by was Howard's pocket-book, and several other articles, which in the trial were the most damaging evidences against him.

He was tracked to the Pacific coast and found in the California penitentiary under a short sentence, and when it expired was returned to Missouri. He was tried in the circuit court of Laclede county and convicted of murder in the first degree. He had money and bought the case desperately, and Dr. De Costa declined to be interviewed. Persons who pretend to correctly informed say Mr. Childs was unconscious for more than an hour after the attack, and intimate that it is apoplectic in its nature.

Howard was one of the most noted and feared desperadoes of recent years, but unlike Evans, Sundog and others, he never killed his man for plunder. In the commission of his crimes, he was invariably actuated by a motive of revenge for an insult, real or fancied, and he was relentless in his pursuit of an enemy, and never rested until his desire for revenge had been gratified by the death at his hands of his victim.

Howard among the mountaineers of Kentucky, where there are many of its attendant crimes have existed for years. It is little wonder that he follows in the footstep of his relatives and associates.

When fifteen years old Howard killed his first man in the person of a noted desperado named Martin. He had stolen his horse. This coincided with a member of the famous Turner family, The Martins and the Turners joined forces determined to have young Howard's life.

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Story of Ernest Lacore's Crime.

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CHILD'S VERY ILL.

The Distinguished Editor and Philanthropist.

Stricken Down With Apoplexy at Philadelphia.

RALLIES SOMEWHAT

But Is Still a Very Sick Man.

Has Had Two Similar Attacks the Past Year.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 19.—The condition of George W. Childs, who was seized with an alarming attack of vertigo as he was preparing to leave the Public Ledger office yesterday afternoon, was reported as favorable this morning. His physician says he had a good night and this morning was resting comfortably, but he is still considered a very sick man.

At Mr. Childs' home it was said there was nothing to be added to the foregoing statement and Dr. De Costa declined to be interviewed. Persons who pretend to correctly informed say Mr. Childs was unconscious for more than an hour after the attack, and intimate that it is apoplectic in its nature.

Mr. Childs' physician says he had made good progress in his recovery and that he is now able to walk about the house without assistance.

It is known he has had at least two attacks of a similar nature within the past year, and the evident anxiety upon the part of those surrounding him has excited the gravest apprehensions about the nature of the trouble.

Another number of friends of Mr. Childs who called today was Col. Edward Morrell, who as he was leaving said to a reporter, "Mr. Childs is sleeping, but is somewhat restless. The physicians say he had an attack of vertigo. It is a serious thing for a man of his age, but the physicians do not consider it dangerous."

"When all else is gone," said Mr. Dalzell, "one arrow is left in the quiver of the true demagogue—abuse of Mr. Carnegie." (Republ. applauded.) Mr. Johnson and Carnegie stand in the same category. They are both robber barons. He (Johnson) did not claim to be a philanthropist.

The Johnson amendment to put steel rails on the free list was lost—79 to 100.

In the course of the debate Mr. Dalzell said: "I desire to say further that I do not believe Mr. (Mr. Johnson) pays higher wages than his neighbor. I have this on the authority of the president of the Camerica Iron Works."

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